

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AEC-11 AECE-00 NAS-01 ABF-01

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 HEW-08 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4604

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E. O: 11652 - N/ A

TAGS: JA, TECH

SUBJECT: STATUS OF GOJ PLANS TO ASSIST ABCC

DEPT PASS AEC AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SCI FOR YODER

SUMMARY: CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON HAVE IMPRESSED GOJ WITH URGENCY OF ABCC'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT BUT MINISTRY OF HEALTH WORKING LEVEL SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF REMEDIAL ACTION BEFORE JFY 74. EMBASSY REQUESTS UPDATED INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON SOURCES TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED JUNE 14 ON FONOFF FIRST NORTH AMER. DIV. DEP. HEAD MATSUURA TO REVIEW STATUS OF GOJ PLANS TO ASSIST ABCC, AS THEY HAVE EVOLVED SINCE BILATERAL MEETINGS IN LATE APRIL. EMBOFF MENTIONED THAT HE MET MAY 23 WITH WATANABE, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO (WHO HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN PAST), BUT THIS SESSION HAD BEEN ONLY BRIEF REVIEW TO KEEP WATANABE ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS. EMBOFF ASKED MATSUURA FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTIMATE OF HOW THINGS NOW STAND WITHIN GOJ.

2. MATSUURA BEGAN BY SAYING THAT NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER HAD CALLED ON AMBASSADOR USHIBA MAY 24 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF ABCC'S FINANCES. HANDLER WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE UPDATED FISCAL DATA WHICH MADE CLEAR GRAVITY OF CURRENT SITUATION. HANDLER (ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY REPORT) STATED THAT IF GOJ CAN PROVIDE NO INTERIM ASSISTANCE, ABCC WILL BE OBLIGED TO BEGIN REDUCTION IN FORCE OF JAPANESE STAFF MEMBERS. HANDLER ASKED FOR ANSWER BY AUGUST.

3. MATSUURA SAID THAT FONOFF WAS CONCERNED BY HANDLER'S PRESENTATION AND CONSULTED URGENTLY WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE. AMB USHIBA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INSTRUCTED TO CALL ON HANDLER (WHICH HE APPARENTLY DID ON JUNE 7) TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS. HEALTH MINISTRY WILL PROVIDE BY LATE JULY UNOFFICIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INDICATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ABCC THAT IT PROPOSES TO INCLUDE IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST FOR JFY 1974 (WHICH BEGINS APRIL 1, 1974). FUNDS REQUESTED WIL APPLY NOT ONLY TO EQUIPMENT PURCHASES BUT ALSO TO PERSONNEL. USHIBA TOLD HANDLER THAT GOJ HOPES THERE WILL BE NO REDUCTIONS IN FORCE UNTIL END OF AUGUST, IF INDEED IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO DISCHARGE EMPLOYEES (WHICH GOJ HOPES WILL NOT OCCUR). NEED FOR DELAY IS PREDICATED ON TWO FACTORS: DIET WILL BE IN SESSION THROUGH JULY 24 BUT EXTRAORDINARY SESSION MAY BE CALLED FOR AUGUST AS WELL; ANTI- A BOMB DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR ANNUALLY IN JAPAN ON AUGUST 6, 9 AND 15, AND ANY ABCC RIFS WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY DEMONSTRATORS.

4. COMMENT. WHILE EMBASSY HEARTILY ENDORSES INITIATIVE TAKEN BY HANDLER IN WASHINGTON, WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT NEITHER EMBASSY TOKYO NOR APPARENTLY DEPT OR ABCC HAD BEEN DIRECTLY INFORMED. IT IS AXIOMATIC THAT EMBASSY CAN ASSIST AEC AND NAS IN ELICITING GREATER GOJ ASSISTANCE FOR ABCC ONLY IF WE ARE KEPT FULLY INFORMED. SPECIFICALLY, EMB REQUESTS FISCAL DATA (AND ANY OTHER ARGUMENTATION) WHICH HANDLER USED WITH USHIBA. OUR INTENTION -- SINCE IT APPEARS THIS SUBJECT HAS ONCE AGAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOGGED DOWN IN JAPANESE BUREAUCRATIC RIGIDITIES -- IS FOR AMB INGERSOLL TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIIDO TO STRESS EXTREME URGENCY OF ABCC'S FISCAL SITUATION AND REQUEST URGENT REMEDIAL EFFORTS BY GOJ.

DECONTROL 1/1/75
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